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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising

a) a fluid ~~flow-path~~ flowpath, comprising

i) a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer ~~which is capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face,~~

at least one inlet ~~pipe~~ conduit for ~~connection moving a fluid in the flowpath to the wound to a fluid supply tube, which wherein the at least one inlet conduit passes through and/or~~ or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

at least one outlet ~~pipe~~ conduit for ~~connection a fluid offtake tube moving the fluid in the flowpath from the wound, which wherein the at least one outlet conduit passes through and/or~~ or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

~~the point at which the or each inlet pipe and the or each outlet pipe passes through and/or under the wound-facing face the backing layer forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over the wound at the at least one inlet conduit and the at least one outlet conduit[[,]]~~

~~at least one inlet pipe being connected to a fluid recirculation tube, and at least one outlet pipe being connected to a fluid offtake tube, and~~

ii) [[a]] means for fluid cleansing communicating with the at least one inlet conduit and the at least one outlet conduit and adapted to remove from the fluid in

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~~the flowpath one or more materials deleterious to wound healing having at least one inlet port connected to a fluid offtake tube and at least one outlet port connected to a fluid recirculation tube;~~

b) a fluid reservoir switchably connected by a second fluid supply tube to an integer of the flowpath ~~flow path~~ (optionally or as necessary via means for flow switching in the flowpath between supply of a fluid from the fluid reservoir and or recirculation of the fluid in the flowpath, or a combination of the supply or the recirculation, wherein the fluid in the flowpath comprises an exudate from the wound or the fluid from the fluid reservoir, or a combination thereof [()]); and,

c) a device for moving the fluid through the flowpath ~~wound dressing and means for fluid cleansing, and optionally or as necessary the fluid supply tube; and~~

d. ~~optionally means for bleeding the flowpath, such that fluid may be supplied to fill the flowpath from the fluid reservoir via the fluid supply tube (optionally or as necessary via the means for flow switching) and recirculated by the device through the flow path.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~comprising a wherein the~~ means for fluid cleansing ~~that is a single-phase system, in which the circulating fluid moving from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing, and the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing are removed from the fluid, without the circulating fluid moving from the wound coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~comprising a wherein in~~ the means for fluid cleansing ~~that is a two-phase system, in which the circulating fluid moving from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing, and the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing are removed from the fluid, by the circulating fluid coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.~~

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4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein in the means for fluid cleansing, the circulating fluid moving from the wound and the other fluid in the means for fluid cleansing are separated by an integer of the means for fluid cleansing, which is selectively permeable to the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein in the means for fluid cleansing, the ~~circulating~~ fluid moving from the wound and the other fluid in the means for fluid cleansing are separated by an integer of the means for fluid cleansing, which is not selectively permeable to the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing, and the other fluid in the means for fluid cleansing comprises ~~and/or~~ or is in contact, or a combination thereof, with a material that removes the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the material that removes the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing is selected from the group consisting of an antagonist, a ~~biinder~~ binder, ~~and/or~~ a degrader, a chelator, ~~and/or~~ an ion exchanger ~~for such deleterious materials, or~~ and an anti-oxidant.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the material that removes the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing is selected from the group consisting of 4-(2-aminoethyl)-benzene sulphonyl fluoride (AEBSF, PefaBloc), N α -p-tosyl-L-lysine chloromethyl ketone (TLCK), ϵ -aminocaproyl-p-chlorobenzylamide[[:]], a cysteine protease inhibitor[[:]], a matrix metalloprotease inhibitor[[:]], a carboxyl (acid) protease inhibitor, ~~inhibitors;~~ an anti-inflammaroty peptidomimetic, ~~peptidomimetics;~~ 3-hydroxytyramine (dopamine), ascorbic acid (vitamin C), vitamin E[[:]], glutathione[[:]], desferrioxamine (DFO) ~~and/or~~ and 3-hydroxytyramine (dopamine).

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the materials deleterious to wound healing ~~are~~ is selected from the group consisting of ~~oxidants, proteases, endotoxins, autoinducer signaling molecules, inhibitors of angiogenesis, pro-inflammatory cytokines, and inflammatories~~ an oxidant, a protease, an endotoxin, an

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autoinducer signaling molecule, an inhibitor of angiogenesis, a pro-inflammatory cytokine and an inflammatory.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds of claim 1.

11. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a device for transferring the fluid from the flowpath to waste, wherein the device for transferring the fluid from the flowpath to waste comprises a bleed line.

12. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the device for transferring the fluid from the flowpath to the waste comprises a valve.

13. (New) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the device for transferring the fluid from the flowpath to the waste comprises a pump.

14. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the device for moving the fluid from the flowpath comprises a pump.

15. (New) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising

a) a fluid flowpath, comprising

i) a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face,

at least one inlet conduit for moving a fluid to the wound, wherein the at least one inlet conduit is connected to the flowpath and passes through or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

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at least one outlet conduit for moving the fluid from the wound, wherein the at least one outlet conduit is connected to the flowpath and passes through or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

the backing layer forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure at the at least one inlet conduit and the at least one outlet conduit, and

ii) means for fluid cleansing communicating to the at least one inlet conduit and the at least one outlet conduit adapted to remove from the fluid in the flowpath one or more materials deleterious to wound healing;

b) a fluid reservoir switchably connected to the flowpath via means for flow switching in the flowpath between supply of a fluid from the fluid reservoir or recirculation of the fluid in the flowpath, or a combination of the supply and the recirculation, wherein the fluid in the flowpath comprises an exudate from the wound or the fluid from the fluid reservoir, or a combination thereof;

c) a device for moving the fluid through the flowpath; and

d) means for bleeding the flowpath, adapted to be regulated such that the fluid may be supplied to fill the flowpath from the fluid reservoir via the means for flow switching, or such that the fluid may be recirculated by the device through the flowpath, or the combination of the supply and recirculation.

16. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for fluid cleansing is a single-phase system, in which the fluid moving from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing and the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing are removed from the fluid, without the fluid moving from the wound coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.

17. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein in the means for fluid cleansing is a two-phase system, in which the fluid moving from the wound passes through the means for fluid cleansing and the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing are

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removed from the fluid, by the fluid coming into direct or indirect contact with another fluid in the means for fluid cleansing.

18. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the material that removes the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing is selected from a group consisting of an antagonist, a binder, a degrader, a chelator, an ion exchanger, and an anti-oxidant.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the one or more materials deleterious to wound healing is selected from the group consisting of an oxidant, a protease, an endotoxin, an autoinducer signaling molecule, an inhibitor of angiogenesis, a pro-inflammatory cytokine, and an inflammatory.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the means for bleeding comprises a valve.

21. (New) A method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds of claim 15.

22. (New) An apparatus for aspirating, irrigating and/or cleansing wounds, comprising

a) a fluid flowpath, comprising

i) a conformable wound dressing, having a backing layer capable of forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure over a wound, the backing layer comprising a wound-facing face,

at least one inlet conduit for moving a fluid to the wound, wherein the at least one inlet conduit is connected to the flowpath and passes through or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

at least one outlet conduit for moving the fluid from the wound, wherein the at least one outlet conduit is connected to the flowpath and passes through or under the wound-facing face of the backing layer,

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the backing layer forming a relatively fluid-tight seal or closure at the at least one inlet conduit and the at least one outlet conduit, and

- ii) a fluid cleansing system selected from the group consisting of a single-phase system, a two-phase system, a filtration unit, an ultrafiltration unit, an adsorption unit, a chemical adsorption unit, a dialysis unit, and a biphasic extraction unit;
 - b) a fluid reservoir switchably connected to the flowpath, wherein connection between the fluid reservoir and the flowpath is switchable between supply of a fluid from the fluid reservoir or recirculation of the fluid in the flowpath, or a combination of the supply and the recirculation, and wherein the fluid in the flowpath comprises an exudate from the wound or the fluid from the fluid reservoir, or a combination thereof; and,
 - c) a first pump communicating with the flowpath, whereby the first pump is capable of moving the fluid through the flowpath.
23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a regulator for bleeding the flowpath.
24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the regulator comprises a valve.
25. (New) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the regulator comprises a second pump.
26. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising at least one bleed line communicating with the flowpath.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the bleed line communicates with the flowpath through a valve.
28. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising a bleed valve.

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29. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the first pump is selected from the group consisting of a reciprocating pump, a shuttle pump, a diaphragm pump, a piston pump, a rotary pump, a centrifugal pump, a flexible impeller pump, a progressing cavity pump, a rotary vane pump, a peristaltic pump and a vacuum pump.
30. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the first pump further comprises a pressure regulator.
31. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the fluid reservoir is switchably connected to the flowpath through a valve.
32. (New) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the fluid cleansing system comprises a material selected from the group consisting of an antagonist, a binder, a degrader, a chelator, an ion exchanger, and an anti-oxidant.
33. (New) The method of treating wounds to promote wound healing using the apparatus of claim 22.